



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Will Waive Day Use Fees On National Public Lands Day

St. Louis, Mo. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will join other federal agencies in waiving day use fees at its recreation areas nationwide on September 20.

This date coincides with the celebration of National Public Lands Day. Millions of Americans volunteer their time and effort on this occasion to build nature trails, improve recreation areas, clean up trash and debris, or walk, hike or swim on our public lands and waters.

In waiving day use fees, the Corps encourages all Americans to take part in National Public Lands Day activities or just enjoy our Nation's public lands and waters. Day use fees are assessed for the use of beaches and select boat ramps. Fees for other activities, such as camping, will not be affected.

With the end of summer coming this may be the perfect time to visit the five St. Louis District lakes that will be observing the day use waiver.

The District's lakes have been recognized as some of the best in the Corps of Engineers. Mark Twain Lake (Monroe City, Mo.) and Wappapello Lake (Wappapello, Mo.) have both won Project of the Year, Mark Twain in 1996 and Wappapello in 1999. And most recently, Wappapello was recognized as one of the top four projects for 2002.

In July, Wappapello Lake's project team was recognized for providing quality recreational opportunities to two million visitors and successfully balancing many challenges in 2002 such as the second highest lake level in the lake's 62-year history, flood control structure inspections, camp facilities improvement projects, increased security and ongoing cultural and natural resource protection.

"I am proud of the outstanding service all of our lake projects provide the public. The St. Louis District's lakes offer great recreational opportunities and also serve an important role in flood control. National Public Lands Day is a great opportunity for individuals and families to discover and enjoy the natural beauty and outdoor recreation available at our five district lakes." Col. Kevin Williams, commander, St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps is one of our nation's largest providers of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 456 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests.

DAY USE WAIVER 2-2-2

The Corps hosts about 375 million visits each year at its lakes, beaches and other areas, and estimates that 25 million Americans (one in ten) visit a Corps project at least once a year to recreate.

The public is welcome to call the individual project offices for additional information. Although Carlyle and Wappapello Lakes are participating in the fee waiver, they are not holding specific events associated with National Public Lands Day.

Carlyle Lake (Carlyle, Ill.)	618-594-2484
Lake Shelbyville (Shelbyville, Ill.)	217-774-3951
Mark Twain Lake (Monroe City, Mo.)	573-735-4097
Rend Lake (Benton, Ill.)	618-724-2493
Wappapello Lake (Wappapello, Mo.)	573-222-8562

Additional information about these Corps' projects is available at <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Recreation/>

Information about National Public Lands Day is at <http://www.npld.com/background.htm>